Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 12, Issue #5 Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC 1 June 2017

Pest Patrol Alerts

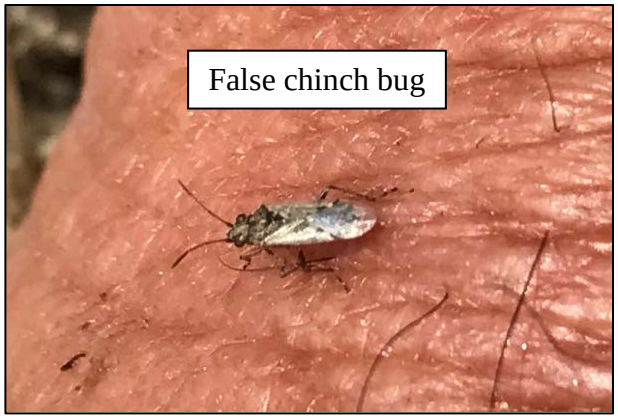
The information contained herein each week is available via text alerts that direct users to online recordings. I will update the short message weekly for at least as long as the newsletter runs. After a new message is posted, a text message is sent to alert users that I have recorded a new update. Users can subscribe for text message alerts for my updates in two easy steps. Step one: register by texting **pestpat7** to 97063. Step two: reply to the confirmation text you receive by texting the letter "y" to complete your registration. Pest Patrol Alerts are sponsored by Syngenta.

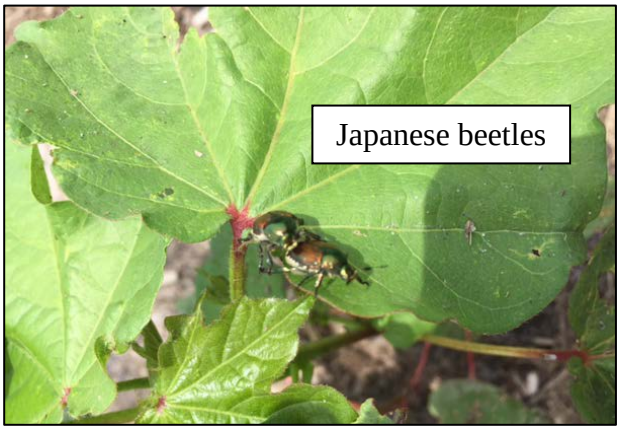
Updates on Twitter

When noteworthy events happen the in the field, I will be sending them out quickly via Twitter. If you want to follow those quick updates, follow me at @bugdocisin on Twitter.

News from Around the State

Jacob Stokes, county agent covering Florence and Williamsburg Counties, reported seeing tons of what we determined to be false chinch bugs in early vegetative soybeans. Very likely, there was not enough time between the burn-down application and planting. Put some time between those events to impede insects transitioning from weed to crop hosts. Don't give them a bridge. Control of these insects on young soybeans or cotton is often not needed, despite the alarming numbers of insects present, but they can hurt plants under very high numbers. The key is to determine how much stress plants are in from drought, herbicides, fertility, insects, etc, and figure out what you can address, if needed, and what you cannot. Often, the best thing to get on these plants is water – either irrigation or rainfall, as they can be tough to kill with insecticides. **William Hardee**, county agent covering Horry and Marion Counties, checked out a call for Japanese beetles on cotton. He reported that they seemed to be eating more pigweed than cotton. We have seen Japanese beetles in cotton before and determined that control of this defoliating insect is seldom needed.



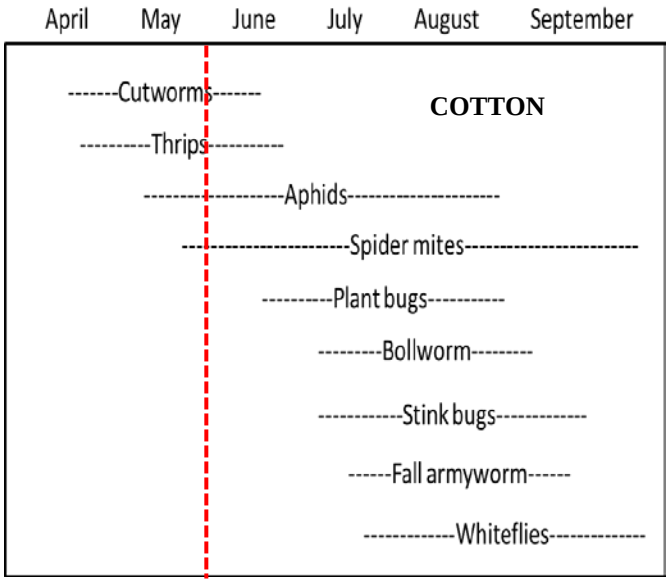


Cotton Situation

As of 28 May 2017, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 77% of the crop has been planted, compared with 64% the previous week, 70% at this time last year, and 77% for the 5-year average. The condition of the crop was described as 0% excellent, 73% good, 27% fair, 0% poor, and 0% very poor.

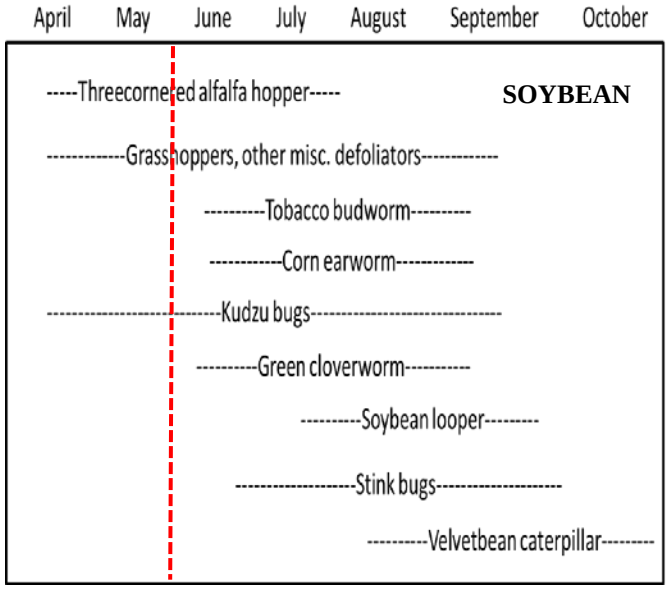
Cotton Insects

Any cotton that was planted a week or two ago could still be susceptible to injury from thrips, but at a declining rate with every day that passes. Cotton is growing rapidly now, and thrips numbers are declining. That being said, you still need to scout your fields to determine whether or not you have threshold numbers of thrips and injury. Any cotton sprayed for thrips after 5 true leaves will most likely not economically benefit from the application. You could actually do more harm than good with a very late thrips spray. This "revenge" killing can flare aphids, spider mites, or some other insect pest that might otherwise not be an issue. Don't unnecessarily release these insects from natural controls.



Soybean Situation

As of 28 May 2017, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 41% of our soybean crop has been planted, compared with 32% the previous week, 53% at this time last year, and 48% for the 5-year average. About 26% of the crop has emerged, compared with 16% the previous week, 28% at this time last year, and 31% for the 5-year average. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.



Soybean Insects

As we are still planting soybeans and watching the young crop get started, there are few issues with insects at this point. As you know, many species like to feed on soybeans, so we have much to pay attention to in the crop. I want folks to get out and look at early soybeans and pay attention to threecornered alfalfa hoppers, as now is the time to notice them. Treat only if numbers reach several per rowft or sweep and feeding damage (girdling of stems) is observed.

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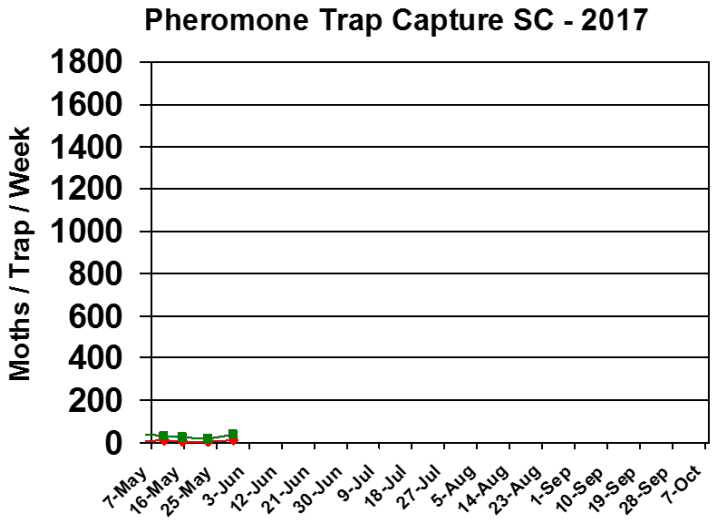
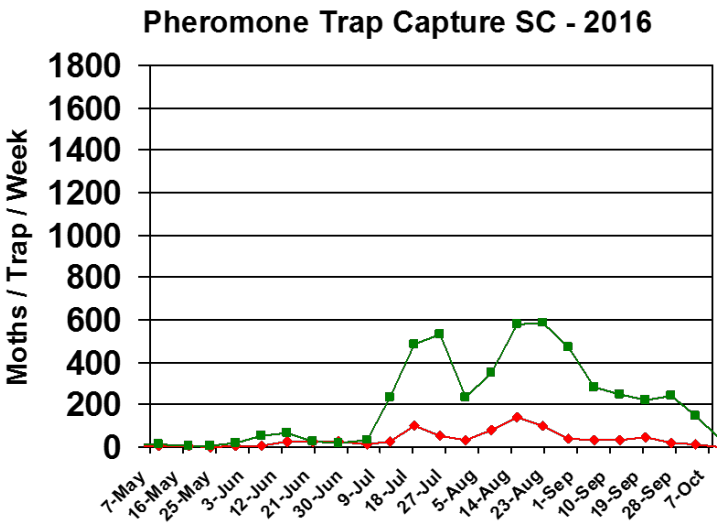
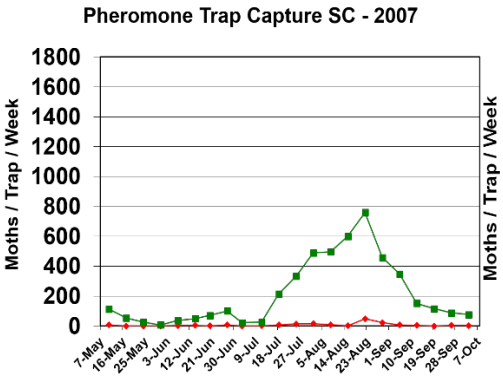
Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm

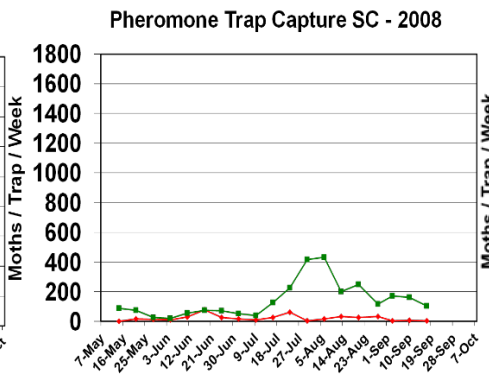
Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season are shown below, as are the captures from 2016 for reference. Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for any acres of non-Bt cotton. I provide these data as a measure of moth presence and activity in our local area near my research plots. The numbers are not necessarily representative of the species throughout the state.

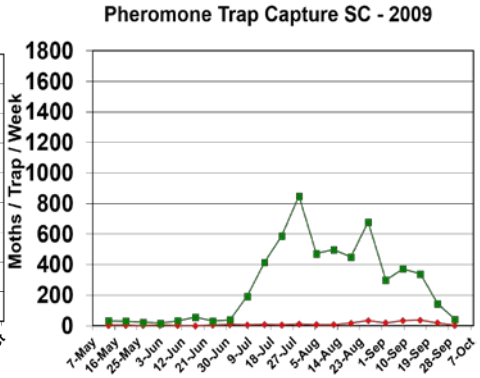


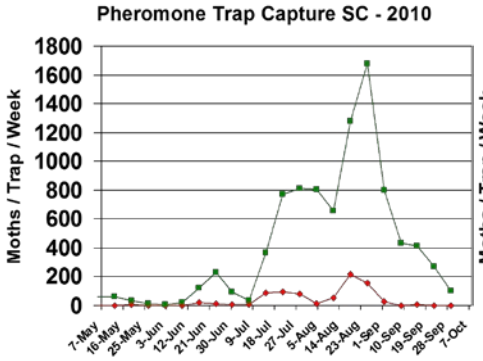


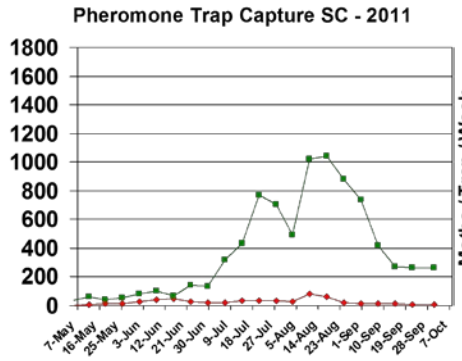
Trap data from 2007-2015 are shown below for reference to other years of trapping data from EREC:

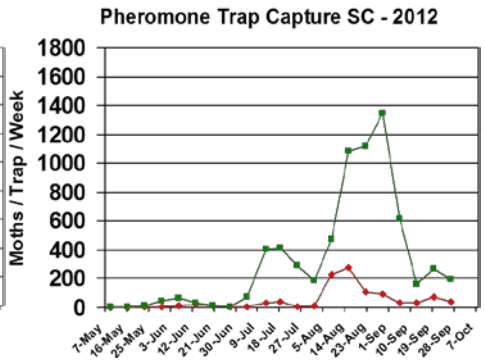


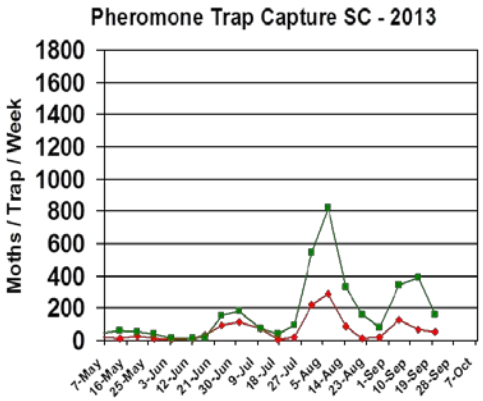


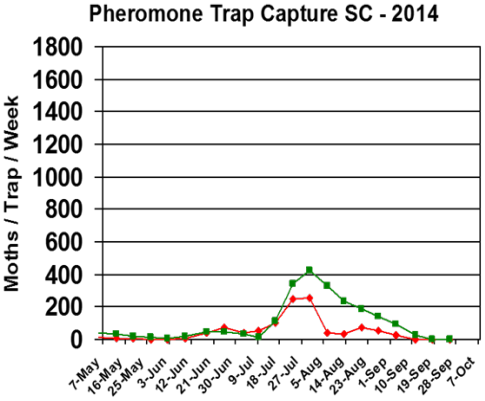


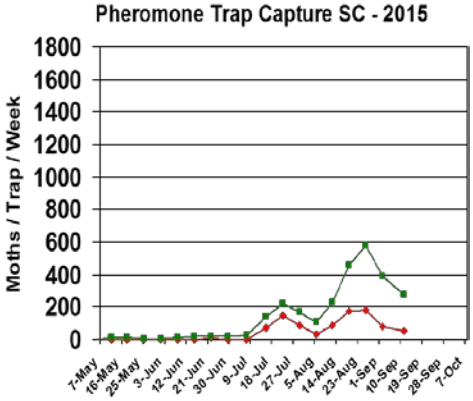












Pest Management Handbook – 2017

Insect control recommendations are available online in the 2017 South Carolina Pest Management Handbook at: http://www.clemson.edu/extension/agronomy/pest%20management%20handbook.html

Free Mobile Apps: "Calibrate My Sprayer" and "Mix My Sprayer"

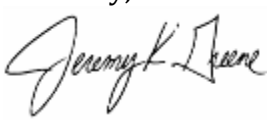
Download our free mobile apps called "Calibrate My Sprayer" and "Mix My Sprayer" that help check for proper calibration of spraying equipment and help you with mixing user-defined pesticides, respectively, in custom units (available in both iOS and Android formats): http://www.clemson.edu/extension/mobile-apps/

Need More Information?

For more Clemson University Extension information: http://www.clemson.edu/extension/

For historical cotton/soybean insect newsletters: http://www.clemson.edu//extension/agronomy/cotton1/newsletters.html

Sincerely,



Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.
Professor of Entomology

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